

Some Good Things in the Washington Theaters

(Continued From Second Page.)

A telegram was forced in his hand, and, sleepily opening it, he read: "George Ade, Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, Ill.: Dear George—Father passed away tonight.—Benjamin Tyler."

Ibsen to His King.

Pleaded for a Grant of a Pitiful Sum of Money.

Some new Ibsen letters have lately been written to the King in 1885, soon after the publication of "Brand." The author states that this work has aroused great interest outside the borders of his fatherland, but, he adds, "I cannot live on the expressions of thanks I have received," and he pleads for a special grant of 400 kroner in order to afford me the possibility of living my life as a poet." He continues in this wise: "I am not fighting for a future free from care, but for my life's work, which I firmly believe and know, God has provided for me, a work which seems to me the most important and needful for Norway—to awaken the people and to teach them to think largely. I rests with your majesty if I must quit the battlefield where, as I know, the weapons have been granted to me. The conflict, and for until this day I have never left the field."

In another letter, addressed to a German translator, he says: "Everything I have written is allied in the closest possible manner with what I have lived through. I am not actually experienced. Every new play has had this purpose for myself, to serve as a soul-freedom and cleansing process." In a letter refusing permission to a translator to alter the ending of "A Doll's House" he makes the admission that the whole play is written "just on account of the closing scene."

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES.

"The Sylvan Players," headed by Sydney Herbert, formerly with Augustin Daly, and Miss Cortelyou, will be seen here in Shakespearean repertoire June 12, 13 and 14. This announcement will no doubt be read with great pleasure by those who are fortunate enough to witness the out-door productions given here last May.

The affair will be under the direction of T. Arthur Smith, who so successfully presented those delightful performances last season, and will be given for the benefit of the Italian Republic.

The repertoire will include "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night," "Much Ado About Nothing," and "The Merchant of Venice."

Notes of the Stage.

David Belasco has added Bertha Gailand to his list of stars, and will put her forward next season in "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" in cities where the play has not been seen. During the following season she will be seen in a new play for which Mr. Belasco has already contracted with an American writer. Her arrangement with Mr. Belasco covers a long term of years, and it is expected that she will be given a new play each season, as her success warrants.

With two or three "Hamlets" running in London, burlesques of the character and the play are the order of the day in the music halls.

The success of the revival of "Tribby" in New York has decided W. A. Brady to continue the play in Wilton Lackaye's repertoire next season. Mr. Lackaye begins his fall and winter tour in San Francisco on September 4. His plays will be "Tribby," "The Pitt," and "Pillars of Society." When the star reaches New York he will make a production of his new play, "Jean Valjean."

M. Coquilin, the actor, has offered himself for the senatorship of the Pas de Calais, with no little hope of finding his ambitions realized. Already he has been elected to the Legislature of the Pas de Calais, and he is now in the French body of legislators. England's upper house has seen one actor among the peers, that being the Earl of Roslyn, whose seat there was his by inheritance.

Mme. Gaski has received word that she is to be one of the prima donnas for the great opera festival to be held at Munich in the latter part of July and the greater part of August. Mme. Gaski will appear in the "Marriage of Figaro" and Wagner's "The Ring of the Niebelung."

Chorus girls have always complained of long and numerous rehearsals, but the forty little maidens who make up the ranks of the grenadiers in "The Earl and the Girl" at the Boston Theatre have set a new pace in the rehearsal line. The chorus girls are to attend a daily drill, and Manager Burnside has imposed this duty ever since the new Shubert show's first production in Chicago several months ago.

Calve has written the book of an opera. Egypt is the scene, a goddess of the Nile, to be played by Calve herself, the central figure. De Lara—he of "Messaline"—will write the music.

Channing Pollock, general press representative for the Shubert brothers, has completed the dramatization of "The Secret Orchard" and also of "In the Bishop's Carriage," which Lieber & Co. will produce next season. Mr. Pollock wrote "The Great Adventurer," which Thomas E. Shea is presenting with great success on tour. It had its first performance in Philadelphia a month or six weeks ago.

Gertrude Renneyson, of the English grand opera company, was in her early career a newspaper reporter. She worked on a Pennsylvania paper as society reporter and sang in a church choir. Her soprano attracted the attention of Mme. Nordica, who advised the girl to study abroad. After two years at the Boston Conservatory she studied under Koenig in Paris for three years and was signed to sing leading soprano roles by Henry W. Savage.

Kleanor Robson will sail for Europe shortly after the close of her tour with "The Stoops to Conquer," and will spend a large part of the summer in France.

Effie Elliser (Mrs. Frank Weston) will star in a revival of "Hazel Kirke," under the management of Jules Murray. Miss Elliser was the original Hazel Kirke and played the part throughout the country during the first run of the play.

II. Bruce Dalamater, of the Alice Reicher company, is planning a trip via bronco through the Yellowstone Park

Mr. Delamater has had considerable experience of "rough it" in the tropics and Alaska.

Frances Young, who closed with "The Gypsy Girl" in Brooklyn recently, will make New York her home in future.

Since Henry W. Savage started to popularize grand opera in the vernacular he has produced eighty-two operas in English.

Master Gordon Sergeant, the boy actor, closed his engagement with Oliver Labadie's "In Louisiana" company at Creston, Iowa, and left for his home in Holyoke, Mass., where he will spend the summer. Master Gordon is but ten years old, made the trip of over 1,400 miles alone.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Lackaye on the afternoon of May 18, but, unfortunately, only lived for six hours.

Henry W. Savage announces there will be two "College Widow" companies next season.

Estelle de Mar, a sister of Carrie de Mar, was married in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, May 14, to Ernest Schell, a business man of Philadelphia. Mrs. de Mar has been a member of W. A. Brady's company for several years, and was a member of the "Girls Will Be Girls" company last season.

Mrs. Mabel E. Farnum secured a decree of divorce from William Farnum, in Chicago, May 18.

William Klein has rallied from his injuries in the wreck in which Mr. Shubert lost his life, but is not yet out of danger.

Frank G. Raymond has been engaged as advertising and excursion agent with Pain's fireworks spectacle, "Bombardment of Fort Arthur."

Julian Mitchell has entrusted Irving H. Christian with the stage management of "Babes in Toyland" the coming season. Mr. Christian has been successfully identified with "The Wizard of Oz" for the past three seasons.

George Friend will go with the "Nance O'Neil" company for their Australian season.

Anita Bridger returned last week from a fortnight's visit to her mother and sister in San Francisco.

Mme. Schumann-Heink's engagement in "Love's Lottery," at the Illinois Theater, Chicago, has been so successful that Fred C. Whitney has arranged to prolong her stay two or three weeks.

In Montreal, which has a large French population, a famous Parisian success, "Les Avaries," which might be interpreted the degenerate, was played at one of the leading theaters. In the notice of the performance it was naively added that only men were admitted.

Hilda Spong opened her new country home in New York last week. Mary of the invited guests took various animals with them, in order to give the actress a chance to start as a farmer.

Ward and Vokes will not be seen together next season. Vokes will continue with "A Pair of Pinks," while Ward will have a new musical comedy.

When Forbes Robertson returns next season among other plays he will produce "Othello."

Elita Proctor Otis is to go into vaudeville with a condensed version of "Olive Twist."

It is said that in the Actors' Home in New York the inmates used to get 50 cents per week spending money. This has been cut off.

Since Jefferson's death the veterans of the stage are J. H. Stoddard, 78; C. L. Allen, 74; Henry Clay Barnabee, 72; and Denman Thompson, whose years are as many. W. J. Le Moine is 69; Frank Bangs, who is giving acting lessons in this city, is 69; Charles A. Stevenson and Louis James are 63; George Burdette, 62; and W. H. Crane does not insist on being considered any older. Other well-known players are E. M. Holland, 57; Nell Burgess, 56; James O'Neill, 56; Frederick Ward, 54; John Drew, 52; Mansfield, 48; Nat Goodwin, the same; Frank Danforth, 47; Charles O'Connell, 47; Henry E. Dixey, 46; and E. H. Sothern, 41.

DISPUTED AUTHORSHIP OF "LONDON ASSURANCE"

The revival by Ellis Jeffreys of "London Assurance," a famous comedy of the mid-century, brings to mind a hot controversy that used to rage over the authorship of the play every time it was taken up by the Wallace Company. On the playbills the piece was always attributed to Dion Boucicault, but those who were in the know persisted in saying it was John Brougham's. Nor during Brougham's lifetime did Boucicault ever make any contradiction of the published assertion. The writer once asked Brougham as to the truth of the matter and he answered, "I am on my honor not to tell." The probability is that Boucicault was the author of the play, which bears many of the earmarks of Boucicault's style, and that the play was written in London when the play was first produced at Covent Garden.

HOW "FLORODORA" CAME TO BE WRITTEN

One mid-May Sunday afternoon about five years ago, when the blooming lily-burnum and red-flowered chestnuts were luring the crowds from London to the beautiful villas of the Thames, Evie Grege, who then was playing the principal role in "L'Amour Mouille," was one of a party on the river out for a week-end holiday. Some friend brought Leslie Stuart, the composer, to her and introduced him. Mr. Stuart was surprised at the extreme youth of the girl, whom he had seen play in "L'Amour Mouille" a few evenings before, and remarked, "Well, you are a youngster!" Miss Grege, who then was only nineteen, answered with her delicious Dublin burr, "I am not an old granny yet. No doubt you will want to write an opera for me before long."

Mr. Stuart was amused at the youthful Evie's impertinence of the girl and assured her he would like to see her in an opera of his. Miss Grege took the matter seriously and said she could introduce him to a man who had a very good book for an opera. Shortly afterward she arranged a meeting between the girl, whom he had seen play in "L'Amour Mouille," and Mr. Stuart. This meeting between Mr. Stuart and Mr. Hall resulted in the former writing the music for "Florodora" and in elaborating the

role of Dolores, which Evie Grege originated, and in which she scored so heavily in London. This was the beginning of her remarkable rise on the stage, her subsequent success in "The Duchess of Dantzig" bringing all London to her feet. Her long stay here in Daly's served to establish for her a large personal following in this country.

PLAYS WITH LONG RUNS.

The plays which ran for a hundred performances and over in New York during the past season number fourteen. Only two plays ran for over 200 performances, "The Music Master," in which David Warfield is appearing, running for 246 performances, and "The College Widow," George Ade's comedy, teaching its 25th performance. The plays which ran over 100 performances were "Higgledy Piggledy," 185 times; "It Happened in Nordland," 154 times; "Fantana," 129 times; "You Never Can Tell," 129 times; "Humpty Dumpty," 122 times; "Leah Kleschna," 121 times; "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," 120 times; "The Sho-Gun," 125 times; "Mrs. Leftfellow's Boots," 125 times; "The Duke of Killarney," 125 times; "The School Girl," 120 times; and "Adrea," 115 times. Of these "Fantana" and "The Music Master" are still running. It is curious to note that the attractions which ran over 100 performances are evenly divided in classification. Seven were musical plays and seven were straight dramatic plays and comedies without music.

JOE JEFFERSON IDENTIFIED.

Joseph Jefferson went into one of the big Wall Street bondhouses one day years ago, wishing to sell some Government bonds.

"Does anyone know you personally here, Mr. Jefferson?" asked the clerk, after he had given his name. "If not, you will have to be identified, you know."

Jefferson leaned slouchingly against the counter, shaking his head sadly, his watery blue eyes twinkling. "If my dog Schneider was here he'd know me," he said, in his inimitable way. He didn't

need the dog Schneider after that; the big office was full of any number of people willing to identify him.

SCARECROW'S EXPENSE ACCOUNT

Fred Stone, the Scarecrow, surprised Fred Meek, manager of the "Wizard of Oz" company, by putting in an expense account last week for \$280.

"What's this?" asked the president manager.

"I spent that in nickels thrown to the boys who wait in the stage door for me every night," answered the comedian.

"Where does the show benefit by this?" asked Mr. Meek. "That is a costly way of advertising."

"Costly? Not at all. We get them all back through the box office in the shape of gallery admission tickets."

Mr. Meek saw the force of this reason and put his O. K. on the Scarecrow's expense account.

NAT GOODWIN'S TELEGRAM.

Nat Goodwin recently had an appointment with his agent, whose failure to appear at the appointed time caused the comedian to protest impatiently at his representative's tardiness, when a telegram brought the following explanation:

"Washout on the line," ran the message. "The little burn-haired mirth producer, ever quick at repartee, instantly wired in reply:

"Then buy a new shirt and come on at once."

KYRLE BELLEW, SAILING MASTER

Kyrle Bellew received a telegram Saturday from Capt. Howard Patterson, U. S. N., congratulating him on having passed his examination for a first-class master's diploma with the very creditable record of 98 per cent marks out of a possible 100. Mr. Bellew's yacht, Moonstone, is entered for the Emperor's Cup from Dover to Helligeland on June 17, and he is to meet George Tyler in Kiel after the race, where he will be seen against several of the yachts now crossing the Atlantic.

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